

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A laser processing method of irradiating a substrate having a front face formed with a laminate part including a plurality of functional devices with laser light while locating a light-converging point within the substrate so as to form a modified region to become a start point for cutting within the substrate along a line to cut of the substrate,

the method comprising the steps of:

forming a first modified region along the line to cut at a position where a distance between the front face of the substrate and an end part of the first modified region on the front face side of the substrate is 5 μm to 15 μm ; and

forming at least one row of a second modified region along the line to cut at a position between the first modified region and a rear face of the substrate.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A laser processing method according to claim 22, wherein the first modified region is formed at a position where the distance between the front face of the substrate and the end part of the first modified region on the front face side of the substrate is 5 μm to 10 μm .

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A laser processing method of irradiating a substrate having a front face formed with a laminate part including a plurality of functional devices with

laser light while locating a light-converging point within the substrate so as to form a modified region to become a start point for cutting within the substrate along a line to cut of the substrate,

the method comprising the step of forming a first modified region along the line to cut at a position where a distance between the front face of the substrate and an end part of the first modified region on the front face side of the substrate is 5 μm to 15 μm .

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A laser processing method according to claim 24, wherein the first modified region is formed at a position where the distance between the front face of the substrate and the end part of the first modified region on the front face side of the substrate is 5 μm to 10 μm .

Claim 26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A laser processing method ~~according to claim 26,~~ wherein of irradiating a substrate having a front face formed with a laminate part including a plurality of functional devices with laser light while locating a light-converging point within the substrate so as to form a modified region to become a start point for cutting within the substrate along a line to cut of the substrate,

the method comprising the steps of:

forming a the first modified region is formed along the line to cut at a position where a the distance between the front face of the substrate and the an end part of the first modified region on the a rear face side of the substrate is $[5 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$ to $[20 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$; and

forming at least one row of a second modified region along the line to cut at a position between the first modified region and a rear face of the substrate.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to claim 27, wherein the first modified region is formed at a position where the distance between the front face of the substrate and the end part of the first modified region on the rear face side is $[5 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$ to $[10 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): ~~A laser processing method according to claim 29,~~
wherein the of irradiating a substrate having a front face formed with a laminate part including a plurality of functional devices with laser light while locating a light-converging point within the substrate so as to form a modified region to become a start point for cutting within the substrate along a line to cut of the substrate,

the method comprising the step of forming a first modified region is formed along the line to cut at a position where ~~the~~ a distance between the front face of the substrate and ~~the~~ an end part of the first modified region on ~~the~~ a rear face side of the substrate is $[5 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$ to $[20 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to claim 30, wherein the first modified region is formed at a position where the distance between the front

face of the substrate and the end part of the first modified region on the rear face side is $[5 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$ to $[10 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to claim 22, wherein the substrate is a semiconductor substrate, and wherein the first and second modified regions include a molten processed region.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to claim 22, wherein the first and second modified regions are successively formed one by one from the side farther from the rear face while using the rear face as a laser light entrance surface.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to claim 22, wherein the laser light has an energy of $2 \mu\text{J}$ to $50 \mu\text{J}$ when forming the first modified region.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to claim 22, wherein the laser light has an energy of $1 \mu\text{J}$ to $50 \mu\text{J}$ when forming the second modified region.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A laser processing method according to claim 22, wherein the light-converging point of the laser light is located at a position distanced by $50 \mu\text{m}$ to $[(\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.9] \mu\text{m}$ from the rear face side of the substrate when forming the second modified region.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A laser processing method according to claim 22, wherein the light-converging point of the laser light is located at a position distanced by 20 μm to 110 μm from the rear face side of the substrate when forming the second modified region.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A laser processing method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of cutting the substrate and laminate part along the line to cut.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor chip comprising a substrate; and a laminate part, disposed on a front face of the substrate, including a functional device;

wherein a first modified region extending along a rear face of the substrate is formed at a position where a distance between the front face of the substrate and an end part of the first modified region on the front face side of the substrate is 5 μm to 15 μm in a side face of the substrate; and

wherein at least one row of a second modified region extending along the rear face is formed at a position between the first modified region and the rear face in the side face of the substrate.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor chip comprising a substrate; and a laminate part, disposed on a front face of the substrate, including a functional device;

wherein a first modified region extending along a rear face of the substrate is formed at a position where a distance between the front face of the substrate and an end part of the first modified region on the front face side of the substrate is 5 μm to 15 μm in a side face of the substrate.

Claim 41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor chip ~~according to claim 41, wherein~~
the comprising a substrate; and a laminate part, disposed on a front face of the substrate,
including a functional device;

wherein a first modified region extending along a rear face of the substrate is formed at a
position where ~~the~~ a distance between the front face of the substrate and ~~the an~~ end part of the
first modified region on the rear face side of the substrate is $[5 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1]$
 μm to $[20 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$ in a side face of the substrate; and

wherein at least one row of a second modified region extending along the rear face is
formed at a position between the first modified region and the rear face in the side face of the
substrate.

Claim 43 (Canceled).

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): A semiconductor chip ~~according to claim 43, wherein~~
the comprising a substrate; and a laminate part, disposed on a front face of the substrate,
including a functional device;

wherein a first modified region extending along a rear face of the substrate is formed at a
position where ~~the~~ a distance between the front face of the substrate and ~~the an~~ end part of the
first modified region on the rear face side of the substrate is $[5 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1]$
 μm to $[20 + (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.1] \mu\text{m}$ in a side face of the substrate.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): A semiconductor chip according to claim 39, wherein the substrate is a semiconductor substrate, and wherein the first and second modified regions include a molten processed region.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): A semiconductor chip according to claim 39, wherein the distance between the end part of the first modified region on the rear face side and the end part of the second modified region on the front face side opposing each other is $0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $[(\text{the substrate thickness}) - (\text{the substrate thickness}) \times 0.6]\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.